

JAMES A. LEACH
1ST DISTRICT, IOWA

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

COMMITTEES:
BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

*PRB
92-235
6576*

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

February 12, 1993

RECEIVED

MAR - 8 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Donna Searcy
Federal Communications
Commission
Room 222
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Ms. Searcy:

I am taking the liberty of forwarding the enclosed letter concerning the proposed revisions to the Private Land Mobile Radio Services (PR Docket No. 92-235).

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Jim Leach
Member of Congress

JL:ccr

Enclosure

(1) Letter attached

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The Honorable Jim Leach
209 W. 4th St.
Davenport, IA 52801

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Leach:

As a member of the Davenport (IOWA) Radio Control Control Society, I wish to bring to your attention a proposed rule change that is currently under consideration by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC). The proceeding is **PR Docket 92-135**.

Our group is made up of 70 radio control enthusiasts. The radios are primarily being used to control model aircraft. Our purpose is to support and promote our sport/hobby in a safe and enjoyable manner. If the new ruling is adopted, it will greatly reduce the usable frequencies currently assigned for model use. This will increase the risk of accidents and attendant liabilities relative to model aircraft operation.

Our assigned model frequencies are in the 72-76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operation. However, our radio control frequencies are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to co-exist without interfering with each other.

The FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower band widths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the model operating frequencies and will cause interference to radio control operations. Should the new rules be affected, I am told that 44 of 60 radio control model frequencies will be affected by this interference.

When we fly our model airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and by-standers and to protect property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

Please understand that many of my models have wing spans of 10 feet or greater and weigh as much as 30 pounds. The models are expensive, but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We often fly at organized events where many operators participate. We need the use of our full compliment of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

I personally own 4 radio sets that would be made unusable by such a rule change. These radios represent a personal loss of \$1,300. In order for replacement equipment to work in the radio environment that would be created by this rule change, an upgraded radio technology would have to be created. The cost of new equipment is estimated to be 3 to 5 times greater than the cost of the present equipment. My personal cost of replacement would be \$3,900. Add to that the direct loss of the original equipment, \$1,300, for a total of \$5,200.

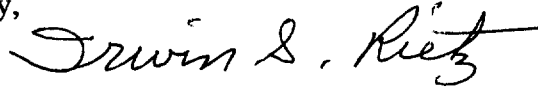
An alternative to this kind of loss would be for the parties lobbying for the rule change to supply, at no charge, replacement equipment that would be compatible to the radio environment created by such a rule change.

I do not think it is wise for the FCC to seek to improve the operating conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users, but we have considerable investment in our models and the contained radio equipment. The hobby provides many hours of safe enjoyment to people like myself. It contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry.

Mr. Leach, this is not a small issue to the thousands of people in Iowa and others from over the United States who use radio for control of models.

Please help us continue the safe operation of our model aircraft by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposal for the 72-76 MHz band.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irwin S. Rietz". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle initial.

Irwin S. Rietz, Davenport Radio Control Society Member
3880 Tam-O-Shanter Drive
Bettendorf, IA 52722